

2006 Local Accomplishments

PUTTING YOUR TAX DOLLARS TO WORK

A very important part of my job as your state Senator is to ensure the money you pay in taxes is returned to you in the form of tangible benefits. Now I'm pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state:

Education Grants	\$10,664,599	This funding represents an increase of more than 12% in 2 years.
Additional Property Tax Relief Fund	291,132	
Road Repair Fund	636,894	
Grants from Casino Revenue	1,368,139	
Local Capital Improvement	750,386	
Grants for taxes lost from state buildings	2,113,046	
Totals	\$15,824,196	

I'm particularly pleased with the progress I made securing grants for four local projects. Here's a quick rundown.

MORE FOR OUR KIDS...

Stepping Stones Museum for Children receives \$250,000 grant

This grant will be used to help launch a statewide health initiative which includes a healthy body exhibit at the Museum, a traveling education program for schools and other organizations and a statewide communications outreach initiative.

OUR SENIORS...

A New Roof for Darien's Old Town Hall Homes

The roofing project at the Old Town Hall Homes for Darien's seniors has been completed. Its residents will no longer have to worry about exposure to the bitter cold in winter.



AND FOR EVERYONE...

Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum Receives \$200,000 Grant

History may repeat itself, as the old maxim goes, but we can scarcely afford to forget it. This mansion's unique historic significance and beautiful aesthetic design make it a treasure to the community and to the state.

Maritime Aquarium to Continue its Educational Excellence

The Maritime Aquarium is the pride of our community. The \$500,000 bond authorization I helped secure will allow the Aquarium to continue its educational programs and activities for people of all ages.

As a parent I understand your concerns for your child's health. I'm happy to report the legislature has passed landmark legislation to eliminate the sale of soda and other sugary drinks in schools. Here's more... those school districts which adopt the dietary standards of the state Department of Education will see their school lunch aid reimbursements triple. This incentive will go a long way to help promote better nutrition and healthier lifestyles for our kids.



Dear Neighbor,


Two years ago you elected me as your state Senator and sent me to Hartford to represent you. Now it's time for me to report to you the work I've done on your behalf.

You asked me to bring back more state aid to Norwalk and Darien, balance the budget, put money away in our "rainy day" savings account, pay down debts, pass bills that stimulate long-term job growth and continue to invest in our transportation system. I'm pleased to report each of these goals has been reached!

Norwalk and Darien together have received an increase of more than 12% in state assistance. Additionally, I've supported other grants and allocations that have provided benefits to various worthy organizations around the district.

The Connecticut General Assembly also passed a number of important initiatives aimed at energy cost relief, improving our environment, protecting our children and helping parents save for their children's college education. You'll find all the details in this report.

Keep in touch with me. Tell me how I can best serve you as your state Senator.

Sincerely,  
  
Bob Duff  
Connecticut Senate

Stay Informed...

Get Involved. Find the latest information on the issues affecting you. Visit my Web site: [www.senatedems.ct.gov/Duff.html](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/Duff.html)



Tell me the issues that concern you most and I'll keep you up to date on them.

Just complete all the information on this form and mail it to me, send an e-mail or call my office. Be sure to give your name and mailing address and indicate which issues interest you. My contact information is at the extreme top, right of this page.

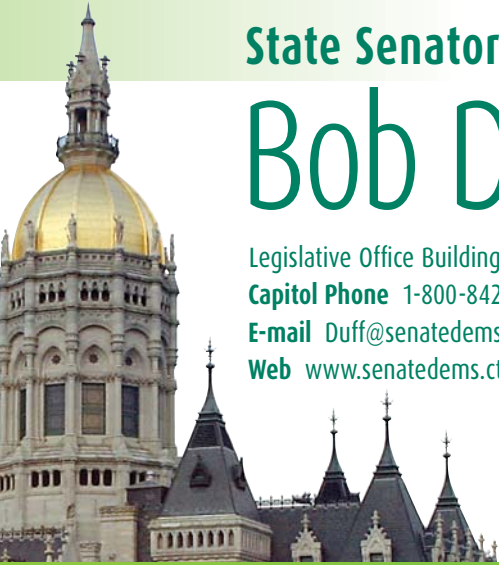
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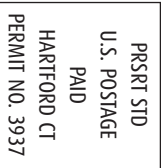
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I'm proud to represent the 25th state Senate District which includes the communities of Norwalk and Darien





# JOBS...JOBS...JOBS

## 2006 Legislative Initiatives

It's all about economic security for you and your family. As your elected representative in Hartford, I'm tasked with looking at the "big picture" because so many factors influence jobs for Connecticut residents.

Take a look at a comprehensive plan I helped pass this year. It invests in education, jobs, university/business partnerships, transportation improvements, and the promotion of promising fuel cell technologies that have been developed right here in our own backyard.

Here are some key points...

- We've eliminated the manufacturing machinery and equipment property tax to attract more manufacturing jobs to Connecticut—especially the cutting-edge, precision manufacturing so critical to our future economy.
- Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy. So we've ensured their survival by creating business "incubators" dedicated to growing small business ideas into profitable ventures. Then we added Development Research and Economic Assistance Matching (DREAM) grants to supplement and increase small businesses' access to federal research grants.
- Nothing can hinder a great business idea like government red tape. But a well-trained Business Advocate—who would serve in a position we have created—can speed through the maze of rules and regulations, eliminating downtime and unnecessary costs. No one should have to fight to be in business and provide the economic opportunities their communities deserve.
- Connecticut is blessed with exceptional institutions of higher education, but our engineering and doctoral research students often "fly the coop" soon after graduation. Let's keep them here with our new 'Scholar-to-Work' system. It's one of the best ways to ensure Connecticut's competitive advantage in the growing world marketplace.
- As the economy changes, there's a growing disconnect between what our schools teach and what our employers need. Superior math and science skills have diminished as we rely increasingly on "feel good" technologies. We will partner local schools and businesses to allow teachers to see firsthand the real-world needs of employers. But that's not all. Students will have opportunities to get into the active "classrooms" of local businesses so they can build relevant job skills.
- Fuel cell technology is now a huge growth industry and will continue to grow for many years. Connecticut is currently positioned as a global leader. The competition is fierce. We can't blow it. We need to *reaffirm* our position as a global leader. And we can do it by improving clean energy alternatives produced right here in Connecticut.
- And let's not forget Nanotechnology—an industry that works at the molecular level to improve the products we buy. We will promote this industry and establish Connecticut as a world leader here too.

## STATE SENATOR BOB DUFF 25TH DISTRICT

# Working for Connecticut's Future



### Honoring Our Veterans

Can we ever do enough to honor and thank our brave men and women serving in our military? Here's my answer...

It will now be easier for veterans to receive certain property tax exemptions because disability payments to our vets will be exempt from the qualification process. In addition, state service members assigned to state duties are now afforded the same protections as they would be entitled to while serving on federal duty.

And the definition of veteran has been expanded to include Reservists and National Guardsmen.

### More Women Gain Access to Breast Cancer Screening

Certain insurance companies must now cover comprehensive ultrasound screening for women with increased risk factors as well as those whose mammograms indicate dense breast tissue. My colleagues and I are doing our part to help women beat breast cancer.

### Saving for College Made Easier

This year, we supported a new tax deduction in the legislature. You can now deduct from your state personal income tax contributions you make to the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET). CHET was established to help state residents save for their children's future college tuition. Growth of the money you deposit in the trust will accumulate on a tax-exempt basis until withdrawn for eligible higher education expenses.

### Mandatory Minimum Sentences for Sexual Assault

Sexual assault on our children by predatory adults remains an increasingly dangerous situation. My Senate colleagues agreed with me and helped me gain passage for legislation to toughen penalties for sexual predators. The bill that passed the Senate increased the minimum mandatory sentence to 25 years in prison for first degree sexual assault against those under the age of 16. It would also have put these criminals away for life if they were convicted twice of assaulting someone under the age of 13. Unfortunately, this bill was not enacted into law.



### Banning Gasoline Zone Pricing

Should we in Fairfield County pay more for the same gasoline purchased by residents in other Connecticut counties? You told me "NO WAY!" so I rallied my Senate colleagues to adopt what would have been a "first-in-the-nation" ban on gasoline zone pricing. This bill would have prohibited gasoline refiners and producers from establishing price zones based on geography. This legislation would have also banned retailers from raising prices before they receive a new shipment of gas. And it would have allowed gasoline retailers to provide cash discounts to customers. Unfortunately, this bill was not enacted into law.



Senate President Pro Tempore Donald E. Williams, Jr. (right) and I join Rhonda Kiest, executive director of the Stepping Stones Museum for Children in Norwalk, where I helped secure funding for the museum's new Healthy Children Healthy Communities Initiative.



### Clean Cars

The debate over greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides, rages on. To help you make informed buying decisions, we passed legislation establishing a labeling program for new cars, bought or leased. The label will include a "greenhouse gas score" to help you learn which vehicles are more environmentally friendly. Look for the new label beginning with the 2009 models.



### Battling the High Cost of Heating Your Home...

by helping you use energy more efficiently. Last October we passed

legislation that exempts certain weatherization products, such as insulation, programmable thermostats, and energy efficient furnaces and boilers, from the state sales tax. That immediately puts money back in your pocket. We've extended the exemption until June 30, 2007. Take advantage of it. And call me for more information on how to save money for next winter.

### Preserving History for Our Children

In the name of "progress" we continue to destroy buildings of architectural and historic significance. This makes no long-term economic sense. Our best bet? Rehabilitate

historic properties for residential use. Everybody wins! I supported legislation that will authorize business tax credits worth \$15 million annually to spur investment in this area. The payback to our communities could be enormous.

## Roadmap to Connecticut's Economic Future

Building on last year's transportation initiative that includes all new rail cars and much-needed improvements to I-95, the Connecticut legislature passed an additional transportation plan in April. Here are some highlights...

- We're accelerating the replacement of our costly-to-operate and repair-prone Metro North rail car fleet with brand-new models.
- We're adding safe and convenient parking facilities along the New Haven and Shore Line East lines. And you'll soon see much-needed improvements along our branch lines including the Danbury line.

We still have a long way to go. The legislature must continue to focus on key transportation solutions including moving cargo via the water, increasing hours at the Greenwich Weigh Station, building the Super 7 expressway and supporting mass transit. All play an important role in supporting a globally competitive Connecticut.